

I FROM THE BABYLON OF THE WEST

[But you, with your levies and changes, are
spoiling what
, sowing. Do no more so, for the love of
Christ crucified a
your own advantage." ¹

The three ambassadors had probably already started
wh

¹ letter reached Florence. A new Signoria
entered office •

' first day of July, and had decided to
despatch the three c

i named as syndics, " to make truce or
peace with the Pope, c

his commissary, upon what conditions they shall
thin)

Their decision was confirmed in the Council of the
Capta

People on July 4, and in the Council of the Podesta and
mune on July 5 ; and, on July 7, the Signoria wrote to

Ca

Orsini and Corsini, calling God to witness that they
ha<

i acted to defend their own liberty,
asking them to us<

influence with the Pope on behalf of their ambassadors,
to

they would shortly send the mandate for peace.² As
s<

they arrived at Avignon, Catherine sent to bid the
three cc

' her, and, in the presence of Fra
Raimondo, reminded th

what the preceding Signoria had promised her ; she
told

that the Pope had put the peace into her hands, and
th«

could have good terms if they desired it. The
ambas

brusquely answered that they had no commission to
conft

her, nor to make the acts of submission she suggested,
shadow of resentment or personal mortification seems

tc

entered Catherine's mind at finding herself
thus disc,

although bitterly disappointed at what she probably
regarc

the perfidy of the Republic, she continued to beseech

the P
 deal with them mildly, acting not as a judge but as a
 father
 Nevertheless, the Florentines were probably
 in e,
 The Mantuan representative at the papal court,
 Cristof
¹ Piacenza, writing to his master, Lodovico
 Gonzaga, on Ji
 tells him of the arrival of the ambassadors, and that th
 very desirous of peace. They have not been able to
 s
 !' Pope, but have visited the cardinals, and
 are expecting a

¹ Letter 230 (197) ; in the Harleian MS.

² Gherardi, *op. cit.*, docs. 273, 274 ; *Diario tfAnommo*
Florentine, p. ⁸ *Legeitda*, III. vi. 27 (§ 4.21).